UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/50/68
23 May 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 116

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Letter dated 23 May 1996 from the Chairman of the Committee on Information to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

Following the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 (A/C.5/50/57), I wish to bring to your attention the draft report of the Committee on Information as adopted at its eighteenth session, held at Headquarters from 6 to 17 May 1996.

In this connection, you might wish to review the deliberations during the general debate relating to the current financial crisis of the Organization and the need to strengthen its public information activities (A/AC.198/1996/L.1, paras. 28-30).

The Committee adopted, without a vote, a draft resolution on United Nations public information policies and activities to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session (A/AC.198/1996/L.3). In paragraph 4 of the text, the General Assembly would express its concern on further reductions of the budget of the Department of Public Information that might affect negatively the activities mandated by the General Assembly, and request the Secretary-General to support the Department, in accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 50/214. In addition, by paragraph 30 of the text, the General Assembly would request that the Department be provided with an identification of all costs arising from mandates contained in resolutions other than the annual resolution of the General Assembly as recommended by the Committee on Information.

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I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated to the members of the Fifth Committee to apprise them of the views of the Committee on Information and the relevant provisions of its draft report.

(Signed) Ivan MAXIMOV
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chairman
Committee on Information